

December 10, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

As supporters of the “Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act” (H.R.3195), we urge you to advance this legislation to the House Floor as soon as possible in order to ensure full, permanent, dedicated funding for America’s most important conservation and recreation program. Congress overwhelmingly reaffirmed a bipartisan commitment to LWCF by permanently reauthorizing the program earlier this year, and we believe Congress must now finish the job by further guaranteeing permanent funding at \$900M annually.

Every state and county in the nation has benefitted from LWCF, which has protected some of the nation’s most iconic landscapes and precious natural, historical and cultural resources; provided clean, safe drinking water to countless communities; and secured close-to-home opportunities for all to enjoy the outdoors. Much more, however, must be done, with ever-increasing demand for conservation and recreation investment through LWCF, and a critical and growing backlog of project needs all across the country. Our population is growing, our outdoor recreation economy is growing, and the need for conservation of our land and water both to provide equitable access for all and to build resilience in our communities and natural systems in the face of a changing climate has never been greater.

LWCF was created as a simple yet elegant concept: take a small portion of the revenues from the sale of natural resources belonging to the public and reinvest it in the protection of other natural resources for the benefit of all. Yet year after year, on average more than half these funds have been diverted, only to vanish into the general revenue stream with no accountability. Earlier this year, with 363 votes in the House, Congress approved and the President signed into law permanent authorization for LWCF thereby guaranteeing the annual deposit of \$900 million in revenues for this program. We now need to ensure that those revenues are being spent on their intended purpose by approving dedicated funding for LWCF. This measure would finally make real the promise that was made to the American people nearly half a century ago—and was resoundingly reaffirmed this year—to reinvest these receipts from natural resource development in vital conservation and outdoor recreation priorities.

Every state stands to gain a great deal from full, dedicated funding of LWCF, which protects national parks and other key public lands from the threat of development inside their borders; connects landscapes for wildlife and fire management; preserves water quantity and quality; increases access for recreation for all Americans **no matter where they live**; and fuels the

juggernaut of our outdoor economy. Over time, nearly \$22 billion has been diverted from LWCF and the communities we serve leaving a tremendous backlog of need throughout our communities. Only full, dedicated, permanent funding will truly empower these communities to leverage the tools LWCF offers and to determine their best futures. With broad consensus on the value of LWCF in Congress, now is the time to act.

The Committee on Natural Resources approved H.R. 3195 earlier this year with a strong bipartisan vote, and the bill enjoys the support of a broad-based majority of House members. We urge you to bring the bill to the House Floor for a vote at the earliest possible opportunity and to do all you can to see it through to enactment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CC: The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Chairman  
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources